Allandale Neighbor

Aug 2015
Vol 30, Issue 4

DISTRIBUTED TO MORE THAN 4,500 HOMES BY THE ALLANDALE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

You're Invited!

ANA's September 2nd General Meeting

ANA EC

Allandalers, come one, come all to **ANA's Annual General Membership Meeting**, 7:00–9:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 2nd, at Northwest Recreation Center, 2913 Northland Drive. This is when we'll elect next year's Executive Committee members, get annual reports from ANA committee chairs, learn about what the City of Austin has in mind for Burnet Road and Anderson Lane, and hear from Leslie Pool, our District 7 City Council representative. ❖

We're Almost There! Our Legal Debt, Soon to be History

Kata Carbone

At the end of 2013, we reported that ANA still owed nearly $25,000 from the 2007 lawsuit against a Walmart supercenter at Northcross Mall. One year ago, we predicted that our next status report would read "ANA's Legal Debt is Paid in Full." Well, we're close, but no cigar. **We have until the end of December 2015 to raise $2,162** whereupon the legal firm will wipe nearly $10,000 from our balance, and ANA will be debt-free. So, here we are again, hat in hand, asking for your help. Please consider adding a little something extra to your next membership renewal (see the form on the back page), send a check to **ANA Legal Fund**, P.O. Box 10886, Austin, TX 78766, or visit our website at www.allandaleneighbor.com and click the "Donate" button to contribute via PayPal. All contributions are deeply appreciated! ❖

Save the Date—National Night Out, Tuesday, October 6

Laura DiCarlo (512-529-1701, lhdicarlo@yahoo.com)

Cooler evenings and National Night Out (NNO) will be here before our next newsletter. During NNO, residents in neighborhoods throughout Austin and the nation are asked to turn on their porch lights, lock their doors, and spend

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ANA is currently holding a membership drive. See page 5 for more information.

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ADVERTISING Lisa Ernst, 512-348-8ADS
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CONTACT INFORMATION
Allandale Neighbor,
PO Box 10886, Austin, TX 78766-1886
allandaleneighbor@gmail.com

ANA Executive Committee

PRESIDENT Kata Carbone
VICE PRESIDENT Marshall Thompson
TREASURER Elliot Brubaker
SECRETARY Jennifer Paris
BOARD MEMBERS Laura Beck, Steve Neel, Michael Nink, Anetta Paver, Caroline Reynolds, Nathan Vassar

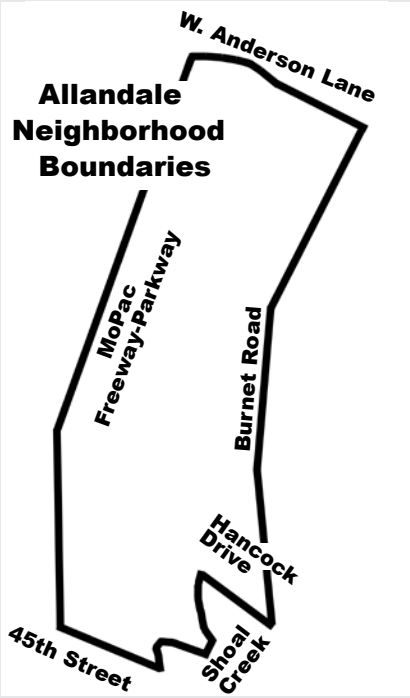
ANA Executive Committee meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month at NW Rec Center. General Membership meetings are held in March and September.

Committees

BYLAWS Marshall Thompson
COMMUNICATIONS Laura Beck
FINANCE Elliot Brubaker
MEMBERSHIP Anetta Paver
NOMINATING Michael Nink
SAFETY Laura DiCarlo
ZONING & PLANNING Nathan Vassar
ANC REP David Orshalick

Allandale Police District Rep.

Ofc. Josh Metteauer, 974-8124, *joshua.metteauer@austintexas.gov*



President's Letter

Kata Carbone, (512-454-6571, allandale.neighborhood@gmail.com)

Your ANA volunteers have managed to take some time off for summer vacation, whether enjoying a "staycation" right here at home, beach combing on the Gulf Coast, chilling in the Blue Ridge Mountains, stepping over the border to Canada, or all the way to China. Still, summer has been a busy time for ANA.

Development: We heard from the folks at **GrantWorks, Inc.**, a grant management firm located at 2121 Northland Drive, who purchased property at 2123 Northland Drive and are seeking to rezone it from SF-3 (family residence) to LO (limited office) in order to increase their office space.

We've been keeping up with **Austin Oaks**, a proposed Planned Unit Development at Spicewood Springs Road and MoPac, and expect to hear recommendations from the Environmental Commission (September 2, 6:00 p.m. in council chambers at City Hall, 301 W. 2nd St.) and from the Zoning and Platting Commission (September 15, 6:00 p.m., also at City Hall). Please note, access to the City Hall parking garage has changed; the entrance is now on Guadalupe, and the exit is on Lavaca.

We've had numerous meetings with stakeholders of **The Grove at Shoal Creek**, a Planned Unit Development proposed by MileStone Community Builders at 45th and Bull Creek Road. On July 29, the seven-neighborhood Bull Creek Road Coalition (BCRC) presented the **BCRC Alternative Vision for The Grove** to MileStone. The alternative vision was developed from collaborative efforts of neighborhood liaisons, and built upon the foundations of MileStone's conceptual master plan that was presented to the public on July 9 (available at www.thegroveatshoalcreek.com). The BCRC's alternative vision provides a basis for discussion as we move toward a shared vision for this significant development. Allandalers wishing to comment are welcome to send email to allandale.neighborhood@gmail.com.

BCRC's alternative vision document, as well as extensive background information including the BCRC's initial design principles, BCRC's inquiry about valid petition rights, and the City's response to that inquiry, is all available on our website (www.allandaleneighbor.com/allandale/2015/07/an-alternative-vision-for-the-grove-at-shoal-creek.html).

Events: Quite a lot of organization went into our annual **4th of July Parade**, and what fun it was. If you're not keeping up with all our online venues—ANA website, Facebook page, and newsgroup—you've missed the digital photo albums. But never mind, we've got a nice subset of photos right smack in the middle of this newsletter.

We've scheduled another event in our free monthly seminar series, a **Composting Workshop** to be held September 17, 7:00 p.m., at Northwest Recreation Center. Thanks to Caroline Reynolds for organizing this event.

On October 6, we'll participate in **National Night Out** with block parties all over Allandale. This annual event is a great opportunity for neighbors and law enforcement to get together and learn how to reduce crime in our neighborhood.

The *Allandale Neighbor* is published and distributed bimonthly by the ANA. Contact our ad coordinator at 512-348-8237 or *allandaleneighbor@gmail.com* for more information.

Your Ad	Size	One time rate
Full Page	7½ x 9¾"	$320
1/2 Page	7½ x 5	$225
1/4 Page	3⅝ x 4½	$116
Business Card	3⅝ x 2	$72

We prefer digital files, at least 300 pixels (TIFF or PDF best). We can create or alter your ad for a nominal charge. For an additional $60 we will create an online ad to place on the Allandale web site: *www.allandaleneighbor.com.*

* a 10% discount is offered on three or more ads.

Membership: Our summer membership drive isn't quite over—you still have until August 31! See more later in this newsletter. And we'll catch up with you at our **Annual General Membership Meeting** on September 2. ❖

Allandale's 56th Annual 4th of July Parade Recap

Kata Carbone

Allandale's 4th of July Parade is always a memory maker, thanks to our awesome participants and spectators! Vast quantities of ice, bottled water, juice, fresh fruit, frozen ices, ice cream, and tacos, as well as 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place prizes in eleven categories were donated by our equally awesome neighborhood merchants.

ANA thanks our special guests:

- Brigid Shea, Travis County Commissioner, Precinct 2
- Bruce Elfant, Travis County Tax Assessor-Collector
- Carlos Lopez, Travis County Constable, Precinct 5
- Cheryl Reese, Travis County Voter Registrar Coordinator
- Elliott Naishtat, Texas House of Representatives, District 49
- Leslie Pool, Austin City Council Member, District 7

We're grateful for our participants and supporters:

- Austin Fire Department #19
- Boy Scouts Troop 410
- Capitol City Highlanders Pipe Band
- Cub Scouts Pack 55
- Eva Kornerup & Gandenae Larsen
- Girl Scouts
- Gullett Elementary & Lamar Middle School choir members and choir leaders
- Gullett Elementary School staff and Principal Janie Ruiz
- River City Rope Tension Drummers
- Sons of the American Revolution

Special thanks to ANA committee members for making this parade happen:

- Anetta Paver
- David Orshalick
- Kata Carbone
- Laura Beck
- Laura DiCarlo
- Mike Nink (who did most of the heavy lifting)
- Steve Neel

And a big shout out to our parade judges:

- Bruce Reilly & Jessica Hunek
- Clair & Antonio Melton
- Fawn Legg & Kata Carbone
- Karl-Thomas Musselman & Jonathan Panzer
- Kathy & Lewis Aven
- Marshall & Allison Thompson
- Meredith Brethe & Kelly Reilley
- Nathan & Jessica Vassar
- Peggy & Darian Dieterich
- Stefanie & Benjamin Cousins

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Allandale's 56th Annual 4th of July Parade Recap

Continued from page 3

Most importantly, thanks to all the parade participants who put together such spectacular displays! This year's prize winners are listed below, and you can see parade photos online here: https://plus.google.com/115772020168132130356/posts/CRKTuSeo63t

Animals
- Flag dogs George & Marlon (with Sasha Pittman)
- Gully, the famous Gullett "super cat" adopted by the Neel family (with Sara & Sue Neel)
- Stella (with Kate Ahrens)

Antique & Classic Vehicles
- 1926 Ford Model T truck (Bill Stephens & Lynn Carlson)
- 1961 GMC Apache Suburban (Laurent Fouillet)
- 1924 Model T (Drew & Jennifer Patterson)

Bicycles
- Major Henson
- Callie Romell
- Hans Ahrens

Floats
- Silverleaf Saloon (Bryan Hood & neighbors)
- Baja Allandale (Maida Barbour, Joe Reynolds & neighbors)
- Yellowpine: Coolest Street in Allandale (Kelly Crook & neighbors)

Scooters & Skateboards
- Linnea Bieri
- Arden Siefert
- Greyson Siefert

Strollers
- Pema Sanchez
- Russell Willingham
- Eli Perkins

Tricycles
- Max Paver
- Maeve Denney
- Eli Perkins

Wagons
- The Gullett Geckos, Gianni & Malina Lento
- Pepper Bonafair
- The Flag Makers of the American Revolution (the Goldsmith family)

Walkers (group)
- Kara Hoke & Kate Ahrens
- Sister Patriots, Caroline Ahrens & Kristin Hoke

Walkers (solo)
- Lulu Cuddy
- Savannah Doerr
- Austin Doerr

President's Choice
- Yesenia Stoebner & Sally the chicken
- Yellowpine (Kelly Crook & neighbors)
- Allandale Rockers (Jennifer Wilhelm & family) ❖

Upcoming in the Hood—ANA Value Continued!

ANA EC

In June, ANA held an Energy and Water Conservation seminar. July 4 was our much celebrated annual 4th of July parade! The 56th annual parade was as great as ever. While Yellowpine kept its buzz factor high, Silverleaf was nipping at its heels (more in the parade recap from Kata Carbone).

Next up in the ANA Seminar Series is a **Composting Workshop**
When: Thursday, September 17, 2015 • 7:00–8:30 p.m.
Where: Northwest Recreation Center • 2913 Northland Drive

Which three-ingredient combo is required for a successful compost?

- Dirt, Sun, Rain
- Organic Material, Air, Moisture
- Bugs, Mud, Sand
- Organic Materials, Wind, Soap

And just how wet does a compost pile need to be? Come find out! This workshop is free to the public, so bring your friends. You'll learn what will compost and what won't. You'll reduce your waste stream and improve your garden. Plus, you'll qualify for a $75 composter coupon (available locally or by mail order).

National Night Out is Tuesday, October 6, 2015, 7:00–9:00 p.m. (see Laura DiCarlo's article). Your ANA continues to bring you great value and interesting learning opportunities, at least once a month. Watch our website and Facebook page for events and please support us by paying your annual dues. ❖

Renewing ANA membership?
join online at allandaleneighbor.com

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ANA Summer Membership Drive

Laura Beck

Happy (it's still) Summer, Allandale neighbors! Hopefully you are still fondly remembering the fun of the Allandale 4th of July Parade—surely the best part of the year for this special neighborhood. The parade, all pulled together and organized by the Allandale Neighbor Association (ANA), always makes us so proud and happy to live in Allandale.

ANA does so much more. Volunteer board and committee members also arrange monthly seminars with valuable education and information on tree pruning, property taxes, energy and water conservation, CPR, not to mention a great impetus to clean out our closets for the annual neighborhood-wide Garage Sale. ANA manages a great relationship with our Austin Police Department; organizes our block captains to help keep Allandale safe and relatively crime free; and coordinates annual National Night Out events all over the neighborhood.

ANA helps navigate the tricky waters of zoning and building and growth, and keeps you informed by sharing information in the newsletter that reaches 4,500+ households every other month, as well as on all our online venues.

ANA does a whole lot more, and all on an absolute shoestring budget. We ask only $15 membership dues per household (or just $7 for age 55+ households) per calendar year, January to December—very affordable! Yet less than 10% of the 4500+ homes in Allandale pay their ANA membership dues each year! Likely this is chalked up to just forgetting, and we are working to put in place better systems to remind you and let you take advantage of automatic renewals.

Until then, to help make it even easier on the many of you who likely fully intend to and want to be part of ANA, and to get more neighbors to participate in ANA, we are doing a Summer Membership Drive.

Some of your teen neighbors may be coming by to ask if you are part of ANA and, if not, they will ask you to consider supporting us. They'll give you an easy way to pay dues with a membership envelope so you can mail in a check. We thank our young neighbors for helping us getting more homes involved to support ANA!

But you don't have to wait for a teen to stop by, you can join online at www.allandaleneighbor.com right now, where PayPal will accept payment by credit card. Or email us at allandale.neighborhood@gmail.com and we'll be happy to deliver a membership envelope to you and pick up your payment directly!

Thank you to the 400+ homes that are supporting ANA already. And thank you in advance to the additional households that will join up now to help ANA do all we do, and help us do more! ❖

YOUR NEW NEIGHBORHOOD BAR & GRILL

Welcome to Delaney's Icehouse! We wanted you to have a laid-back, comfortable place to grab lunch or dinner, a drink after work and catch the latest game. Join us for Happy Hour Monday-Friday for some great food and drink specials. Cheers!

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Get involved—ANA Seeks Executive Committee Members

Mike Nink (michaelnink@hotmail.com)

Allandale Neighborhood Association seeks volunteers to serve on the 2015–16 Executive Committee (EC) and chair or join at least one standing committee (membership, communication, zoning, safety, finance, bylaws, or nominating). Basic requirements to serve on the EC are that you reside in Allandale, your membership dues are paid, and you demonstrate an interest in furthering the purpose* of the association.

Ideally, the EC will be well-balanced with respect to age, gender, occupation, areas of expertise, and geographic residence.

ANA will always face important challenges requiring careful consideration, yet this is an especially crucial time to be involved, as changes related to population growth, development all around and within Allandale, and revisions to Austin's land development code impact our neighborhood.

To throw your hat in the ring, please contact ANA Nominations Committee Chair, Mike Nink (michaelnink@hotmail.com). ❖

*ANA purpose: to promote and protect the quality of life, safety, residential characteristics, and property values of the neighborhood primarily and all neighbors generally; and to identify and assess issues of importance to the residents of the Allandale area and to promote participation by area residents in activities that affect their neighborhood. ANA should actively engage in activities that aid and are necessary to support these purposes.

Bug Off! Insect Populations

Wizzie Brown (Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist, 512-854-9600)

I often receive questions on the seasonality of certain types of insects. People want to know when they should start looking for or trying to manage certain bugs. While season plays into insect pest populations, it's more about environmental conditions that can cause their populations to fluctuate, causing something to be a problem one year and seemingly nonexistent the next.

This year has been an interesting year for me in regard to questions about insects. I have talked to numerous people who tell me they never seen the insect they are currently having problems with. Also many people are dealing with large populations of certain insects that haven't been a problem in previous years. Why? It all comes back to environmental conditions.

This year we received a lot of rain in the spring. This allowed certain insect populations to grow. When we get rain, plants are happy and grow. When plants

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are happy and growing, there is plenty of food for insects that feed on plants. In turn, there are more insects to be food for other creatures that eat insects such as other insects, spiders, lizards, and birds.

We also have the fact that certain arthropods like to be in moist environments. An example of this is chiggers. Yes, those chiggers. They typically live in low-lying areas of moist vegetation. We have plenty of those areas this year due to rain and we have had a lot of chigger problems all over town.

Environmental conditions, whether heavy rainfall or severe drought, will affect insect populations. Insects will not go away, they will adapt to the conditions and thrive when they can.

Contact me for more information or help with identification, and check out my blog at www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com. ❖

Allandale Outside—Falling into Autumn Gardening

Robin Pearson

The dog days of summer are upon us as this goes to print. As I kid, I thought those were the days in August that are so hot that we should behave like dogs: finding cool spots to sleep away most of the day and working only to ward off invaders. The dog days are actually so named for when Sirius, the Dog Star, appears in the sky. I like my childhood theory better, but I digress from my assignment to write an article about gardening in our area from mid-August to mid-October.

Disclosure: I am biased toward vegetable gardening and developing my other gardens specifically so that I don't really have to do anything ever to keep them up. In other words, I continually seek perennials that are tougher than a two-dollar steak and thrive in spite of me, rather than because of me.

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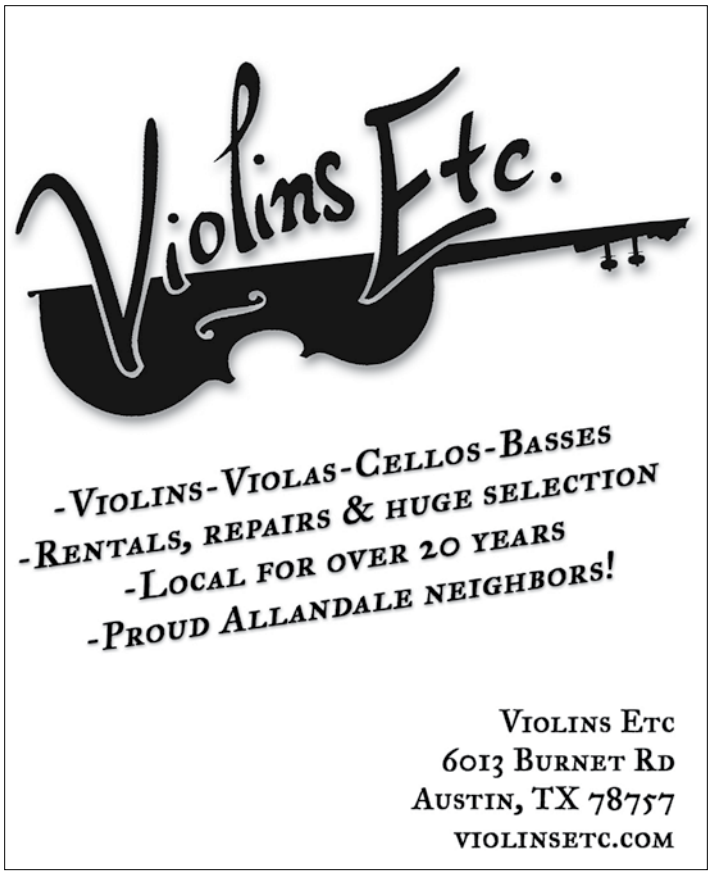

Allandale Outside—Falling into Autumn Gardening

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August

If you are a little crazy—and I mean that in the best possible way—you can use the latter half of August to sow some veggie seeds directly in the garden. A quick list of candidates, along with my suggestion of variety based on my successes or failures, includes:

Pole beans. I have tried many varieties of pole beans, including Asian long beans of various colors. While beautiful and fun to grow, I go back to the flavor of the Kentucky Wonder. For a show stopper of a bloom, however, try some Scarlet Runner Beans along a fence. These are better planted in Fall than Spring because they like cooler weather.

Beets. I have had good success with Bull's Blood, Detroit Dark Red and Chioggia, but not so much with the gold varieties. Plant all three, plus some goldens, for a beautiful plate of sliced beets. The Chioggia are especially interesting, with a white and scarlet spiral pattern inside. Sauté the greens and drizzle them with a good balsamic vinegar—delicious.

Chard. Chards are closely related to beets—like cousins with better hair. I love them grilled and have tried to grow every color, but my best bet has been Lucullus, which offers a plain ol' white stem. That said, I am not a great farmer and Rhubarb chard, with a beautiful red stem, does well here in other people's gardens.

Kale. Red Russian, Lacinato (Dinosaur), and Dwarf Blue Curled Kale all have survived my efforts. I seem to do better with curled varieties. The Lacinato supposedly has superior flavor, but I never got enough of it to say for sure. On a related note, chickens love kale and can pick a plant down to the core stem in no time at all. I should ask them how the Lacinato compares to the Blue Curled.

Kohlrabi. The Austin Organic Gardener's Association (AOGA) recommends Grand Duke, Early Purple Vienna and Early White Vienna. I have not tried any of these because, well,… kohlrabi. I recommend using the kohlrabi space for kale—the chickens will love you, but your children still will not.

Lettuce. Lettuce is really easy to grow, but not so easy to grow well. Like many people, it can become bitter with stress and age. It also strongly prefers cooler weather, which I believe is one of life's

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ALLANDALE AREA 2014 PROPERTY SALES YEAR IN REVIEW

	2012	2013	2014
TOTAL TRANSACTIONS	115	98	108
AVG SALES PRICE	$388,229	$432,225	$473,930
AVG DAYS ON MARKET	45	20	32
AVG $/SQ FT	$207	$235	$255
MAX PRICE SOLD	$735,000	$790,000	$856,250
MIN PRICE SOLD	$184,500	$277,500	$300,000

All statistics & square footage are from Austin MLS for single family residence as of January 7, 2015. For detailed market information about your home contact Jason Heffron, Broker.
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unfair ironies. I want the big salad in July or August when preparing dinner becomes a game of cooking without actually using heat.

The crisphead varieties that form the nice, tight heads you find in grocery stores will not do that here. Cos (Romaine) varieties can work, but Bibb and Leaf varieties are best suited to our heat. Recommended varieties include Salad Bowl, Oak Leaf, Ruby, Butter Crunch, Mission, Red Sails and Black Seeded Simpson. You can sow seeds into the garden in August, but I prefer to sow inside and transplant.

Potatoes. I enjoy growing potatoes, but they are also tricky here in our heat and unpredictable weather. Unless you are like me and just have to try growing purple potatoes, I recommend sticking with Kennebec and Red Lasoda. Other gold and red varieties described as "waxy" are fine though.

I have grown All Blue with some success. While it was a thrill digging up blue potatoes, I never will plant them again. They are quite small, and I don't enjoy washing marbles. Beyond that, I boiled a Kennebec, a Red Lasoda and an All Blue for a taste test, and the Kennebec won. I have only planted potatoes in the Spring (which means in February here), so imagine they would be easier in fall. Just get them into the ground now (before September).

Overall, potatoes are another veggie that I will give up growing for the space and effort they take, but they are fun to grow with kids (hint: don't plant the kids too deep) because you can build a box, or mound, etc. Rodale put together a comparison of seven ways to grow them in a recent issue of Organic Life, which you can read here: http://www.rodalesorganiclife.com/garden/7-ways-grow-potatoes. I do highly recommend reading the article if you are at all interested in growing potatoes.

There are other things you could do in August, but I recommend taking the rest of this month to plan for what you will do in September, and starting some fall seedlings indoors. You can get garlic in the ground as early as August, but I have found that it seldom ships before September. I will use the rest of this month to order seeds, start seedlings and plan where to put my fall seedlings while leaving room for vegetables to plant in the Spring months. Following is a list of August tasks that lead into September.

- Start broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cauliflower and cabbage (including Chinese varieties) inside to transplant in a few weeks.
- Though you can sow lettuce and many greens directly outside, I like to start the tender greens, plus kale and mustard inside to transplant.
- Start herbs inside now. Mint, oregano, rosemary, sage, cilantro, dill and parsley can all go outside as seedlings in September, along with any other perennial herbs (lemon balm, thyme, etc.).
- Start some of your annual/perennial bedding plants that can go out in September. I have found that some "annuals" will overwinter in our area, or come back as perennials because our mild winters don't kill them. For example, my snapdragons and dianthus returned in the Spring.
- Let your veggie gardens rest and throw some buckwheat or other cover crop over them to sow in or pull up in September. I happen to like buckwheat because it has charming little flowers, is easy to use, and the bees love it.
- Water slowly and deeply to keep everything strong until the cooler weather comes.
- Order your **garlic and shallots**, if you have not. You can put them in now, but I have found that many places will not

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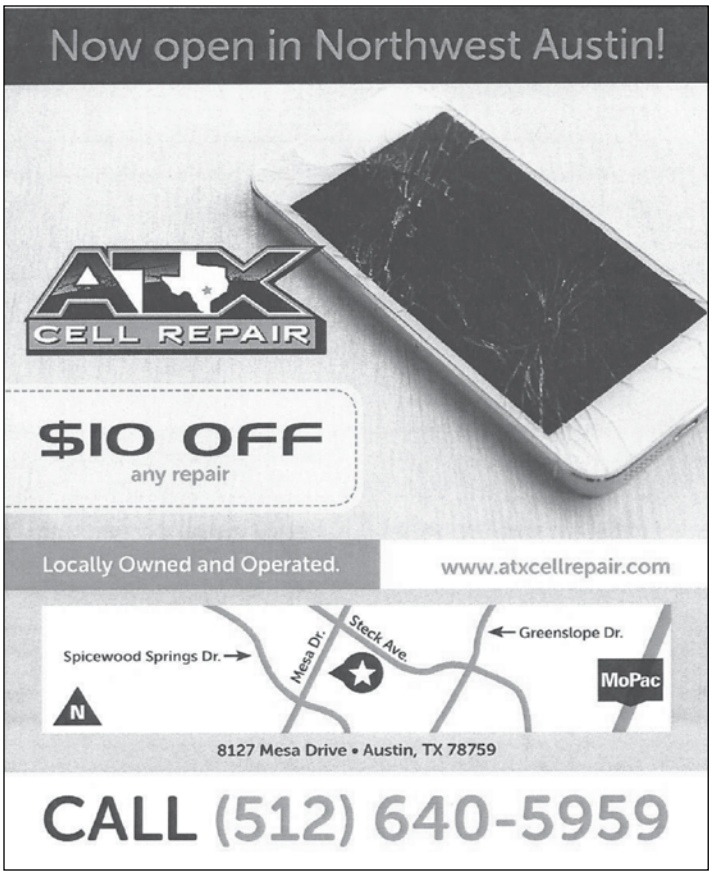

Allandale Outside—Falling into Autumn Gardening

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ship garlic or shallots until September anyway, but popular varieties sell out quickly. I ordered Grey Griselle shallots as a variety that does well in hotter climates, and Inchellium Red garlic, which is delicious and grows easily.

September & October

September 23 is the first day of Fall, so we can officially begin the best planting season in Texas, and my favorite time to be in the garden. Plant all the little seedlings you started last month, plus you should plant native grass seed within the first two weeks of September. If you have St. Augustine grass, this is the time to watch out for brown patch. Here is a link to recommendations from those Aggies about treating it: http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/be_on_the_lookout_for_brown_patch.htm

You can divide your daylily, iris and other perennial bulbs and transplant them starting in September, and put in cover crops, like the buckwheat, to prevent Spring weeds. This is the best time to plant trees and shrubs. I will be adding some blackberries to my patch—consider this and other fruit-bearing plants for shrubbery (I cannot write that word without thinking of Monty Python), for culinary benefit and the wellbeing of our local wildlife. October is also the time to plant strawberries.

I love vegetable gardening in the Fall. In addition to the seedlings you started in August, you can start (or continue) direct-sowing seeds for beets, carrots (Scarlet Nantes), peas (Little Wonder), radishes, spinach and turnips. Your garlic should arrive, but don't panic if it doesn't. I've planted in November and had great harvests.

The best thing about Fall is that it is time to seed wildflowers! The rule of thumb is to sow before Thanksgiving, but early Fall is better. I previously described how I am out there (usually after Thanksgiving) desperately throwing seeds into an unprepared bed. Be better than me and follow these excellent guidelines for sowing wildflowers: http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/wildseed/growing.html

As a side note—completely unrelated to gardening, but highly useful—I tested my childhood theory about the meaning of "dog days." I learned that even good friends feel awkward when you plop down on the floor in front of them during their visit and ask for a belly rub, and the mail carrier gets a little freaked out if you wildly scream "get off my porch or I will bite you" through the window. ❖

Allandale Eating: Tour de Taco

Robert E. Mace

Is there a more perfect meal than a taco? The miracle called taco is versatile (six types of protein, five types of cheese, six types of bonus fixings, four types of salsa, and two types of tortillas = 600 possible taco combinations), healthy (if you choose carefully), portable (if you choose carefully), and fast, all contained on a halo of flour or corn. Fortunately, Allandale is blessed with many of the best tacos in Austin, including three of my favorites: the Otto at Tacodeli, the Trailer Park at Torchy's, and the Pollo Hybrid at Dos Batos. So let's go on a south-to-north taco tour of Burnet and Anderson!

Although technically in Rosedale, I hereby claim the original **Taco Shack** (4412 Medical Parkway; $2–3; open for breakfast and lunch, closed Sundays) for Allandale. This Shack is conveniently located for those of us who work downtown with an easy-off-easy-on location geared toward getting tacos in your hands quickly. My fave taco of theirs, regardless of the sea surface temperature status in the equatorial Pacific, is the El Niño (beans, chorizo, cheese, and jalapeños; "Can your stomach weather the storm?").

Heading north on Burnet you will find the absolutely fabulous **Fork and Taco** (4801 Burnet; $4–5.50; open for lunch and dinner M–F; all day on weekends). The hi-brow Lo-Burn fusion tacos here are not only delicious, but are stunning works of art carefully concocted by a trained chef with all-natural and, where possible, local ingredients. I recommend the Pollo Pastor (chicken, grilled pineapple, onion, cilantro, chichen shin) and, for brunch on the weekends, the Chilequiles (chips, fried egg, pickled onion, queso fresco, Monterey jack, and tomatillo).

The Chilequiles from Fork and Taco

I fondly recall my first visit to **Torchy's Tacos**, back when the Torch only burned at a trailer on South First. After a few bites, I blissfully exclaimed to my co-eaters: "Damn, that's a good taco!" And indeed, as their logo now proclaims, those tacos are damn good. The Torchy's in our neighborhood (5119 Burnet; $2.25–4.75; open for all meals all days) thankfully brings all that goodness to our side of town. All their tacos are deliciously awesome, including the monthly specials, but

Continued on page 15

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Allandale Eating: Tour de Taco

Continued from page 11

my fave is the Trailer Park (fried chicken, green chiles, lettuce, pico de gallo, cheese, and poblano sauce; get it "trashy", which healthily subs the lettuce with queso), with the Dirty Sanchez (scrambled eggs, fried poblano chile, guacamole, escabeche carrots, shredded cheese, poblano sauce) coming in a close second.

The Shell Station at 5302 Burnet hosts a small trailer called **Taco Compadres** that serves up fresh (made while you wait) Mexican style street tacos that are quite good ($1.35–2; breakfast and lunch everyday except Sunday). My fave is the migas, fresh and hot for temp and tongue on corn or flour.

Taco Flats (5520 Burnet Road; $2.5–6; open lunch to late) is a relative newcomer to the area that begs the question: Is it a bar that serves tacos? Or a taco joint that has a bar? Regardless, don't let the bar-ness keep you away from tasting their wares, because their tacos are definitely not afterthoughts. With more than a dozen choices (including barbacoa, shrimp, and fish), my favorite is El Hippie (grilled jack cheese, refried black beans, guacamole, onion, and house pickled escabeche) combined with a jalapeño infused mixed drink.

Taqueria Guadalajara Arandas No. 3 (6534 Burnet; $1.15–1.75; 7:00 a.m. to midnight every day) serves up more traditional taco fare. Their affordable, old-skool tacos include no more than "two things" with the option of adding more, but the goodness is in the simpleness. My fave is the chorizo and refried bean taco and the chicken taco (chicken, lettuce, and tomato).

Another recent addition to the neighborhood is the Austin favorite, **Tacodeli** (7301 Burnet Road; $2.35–4.25; breakfast and lunch all week). The tacos choices here are broad, from vegan to vegetarian to brisket. They also sling one of my top three favorite tacos in town, The Otto (refried black beans, bacon, avocado, and jack cheese). Why oh why is this place not open for dinner?!?!

I hadn't eaten or even heard of **Dos Batos Woodfired Tacos** (2525 West Anderson Lane; $4.65; everyday 11:00 to 9:00 p.m.) until we moved into Allandale, and now those smoky tacos are among my favorites. As the name says, these are woodfired tacos (mesquite—you know it when you walk in) inspired by Monterrey street food, and they are unbelievably good. Be sure to try the Pollo Hybrid (skinless chicken, pollo asado, mushrooms, bell peppers, onions, and olive oil) topped with their yummy warm salsa. Be forewarned: these tacos are addicting.

Mighty Bird (2900 West Anderson Lane; most $4–4.70; open all meals all week except dinner on Sunday) specializes in street tacos made with flavorful rotisserie chicken. Anything with rotated chicken is first rate; but I prefer the simple Rajas: chicken, roasted poblano peppers and onions, and cheese. But if you had a rough night, you might consider The Hangover (egg, sausage, chicken, jalapeno, and cheese with dipping queso) at a mighty price of $8.99.

Continued on page 16

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Allandale Eating: Tour de Taco

Continued from page 15

And, yes, I know, we have a **Taco Bell** (7793 Burnet).

Not-in-the-hood-but-nearby-and-too-momentous-not-to-mention: Egypt has the pyramids, India has the Taj Mahal, England has Stonehenge, but Austin has **Donut Taco Palace III** (a short jaunt over to 6214 North Lamar; breakfast and lunch all week; $1.75). You read that right: Donut Taco Palace. As you might expect, the Palace serves up tacos and donuts (including donuts in the shape of the Longhorn hand sign). As you might hope, there is, indeed, a taco-donut hybrid ($4), and it is brilliantly divine. Instead of a standard flour tortilla, there's a one-inch thick "tortilla" made out of unsugared puffy donut dough with your choice of ample breakfasty filling. Trust me: you will tell your grandkids about this taco! ❖

Gullett Good News

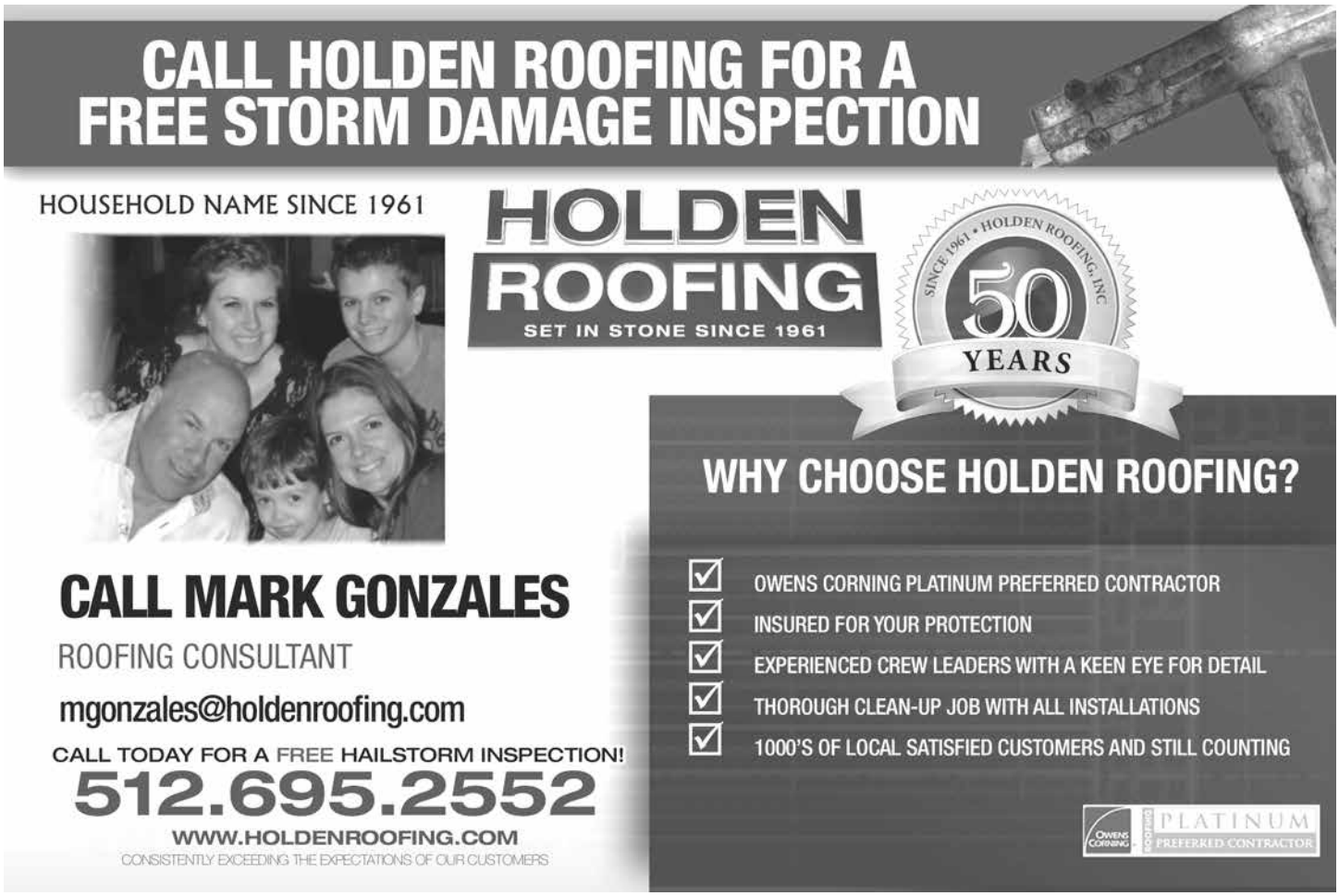
Debbie Trominski

Gullett is a school like no other place and the Geckos are ready to kick off the 2015–2016 school year in style beginning with the Skateland Back-to-School Party on Wednesday, August 19. The event runs from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Come show off your awesome skating skills.

The first day of school is Monday, August 24 and the Friday before that is the always-exciting Meet the Teacher event. From 11:00 to 1:00 on August 21, stop by to meet your teacher and get familiar with your new classroom. Be sure to stop by the PTA's Popsicle Social in the cafeteria during Meet the Teacher. All are welcome to come by to learn more about Gullett's fantastic PTA and how you can be involved in making our school the best it can be. It's also a great way for the kiddos to reacquaint themselves with their old buddies before classes begin again.

Back-to-School Night will be on Wednesday, September 2. This is an important event that parents won't want to miss. Parents gather in their child's classroom and learn about the teacher, curriculum and other important details of their child's day-to-day experience as a student.

And for a dose of big fun, it's not too early to begin planning for the Fall Fest, which will take place from 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 24. This event is open to everyone near and far and there will be activities for all ages, including small child-friendly games so that Geckos-to-be can begin forming fond memories of Gullett before they reach Kindergarten. Hilarious favorites such as the haunted house and giant hamster balls will be better than ever before. Will the cake walk reward more than 1,000 cupcakes again? Come find out! Gullett alumni (that's you, middle and high schoolers) are encouraged to volunteer. Local businesses, you are invited too; 400+ families would love for you to sell, sample food, or host a game or informational booth. For any questions or more information about Fall Carnival, contact Laura Beck, laura@stripedshirt.com.



As a reminder, Gullett can benefit from your online shopping sprees. As back-to-school shopping reaches its crescendo and rolls in to holiday shopping, please remember to use the Amazon.com link that gives 4–8% of your purchase expenditures to the Gullett PTA. When you visit Amazon simply go to the site via this link: http://www.amazon.com/?tag=gullettgeckos-20 (Note there is only one 't' in 'gullet'). Bookmark it! Anyone can use this link, so pass it on to all your friends and family who love Gullett and its Geckos. More information about Amazon School Rewards is available on Gullett's website at Gullett-Geckos.com

Upcoming Events

August 19, 6:30–8:30 p.m.: Back-to-School Skate Party

August 21, 11:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.: Meet the Teacher, PTA Popsicle Social

August 24: First day of classes. Tardy bell at 7:45!

September 2: Back-to-School Night and One Day Book Fair

September 4: Grandparent's Day, Grandma and Grandpa, come visit at lunch!

September 7: Labor Day (no school)

October 12: Parent-teacher conference day (no school for kids)

October 24, 12:00–4:00 p.m.: Fall Fest

Check out the school calendar at GullettGeckos.com for more! ❖

It's Knight Time

McCallum High School and Fine Arts Academy, Important Dates

http://www.austinschools.org/campus/mccallum/2015-2016%20AUSTIN%20ISD%20CALENDAR.pdf

08/24 First day of classes
09/07 Labor Day Holiday, no classes
10/12 Student Holiday, Staff Workday, no classes
Late start Dates: 09/03, 09/17, 10/01, 10/22

Football

http://www.maxpreps.com/high-schools/mccallum-knights-(austin,tx)/football/schedule.htm

08/27 Pep Rally
08/27 vs. Anderson at House Park
09/04 at Lehman
09/10 vs. Hutto at House Park
09/18 Homecoming Football vs. Crockett at House Park
09/24 vs. Lanier at Nelson
10/08 vs. LBJ at House Park
10/16 at Bastrop
10/23 Pep Rally
10/23 vs. Reagan at Nelson

Fine Arts

http://www.austinschools.org/campus/mccallum/fine_arts/calendar.htm

09/26 Movie Music in the Park, McCallum Orchestra Fall Fundraiser. Come support the award-winning McCallum HS Orchestra play the soundtrack to a classic movie montage played on a giant screen under the stars at Mueller Lake Park Amphitheater. Free screening of a family friendly movie following the orchestra performance. Bring a blanket or chairs. Food trucks and concessions available. Festivities begin just before sunset.
09/28 Choir Concert, McCallum Arts Center
10/01 Fine Arts Academy showcase, McCallum Arts Center. Calling all 8th graders and their families! Come check out all that the McCallum Fine Arts Academy has to offer at our Showcase and Open House from 7–9 PM McCallum Arts Center Theater!

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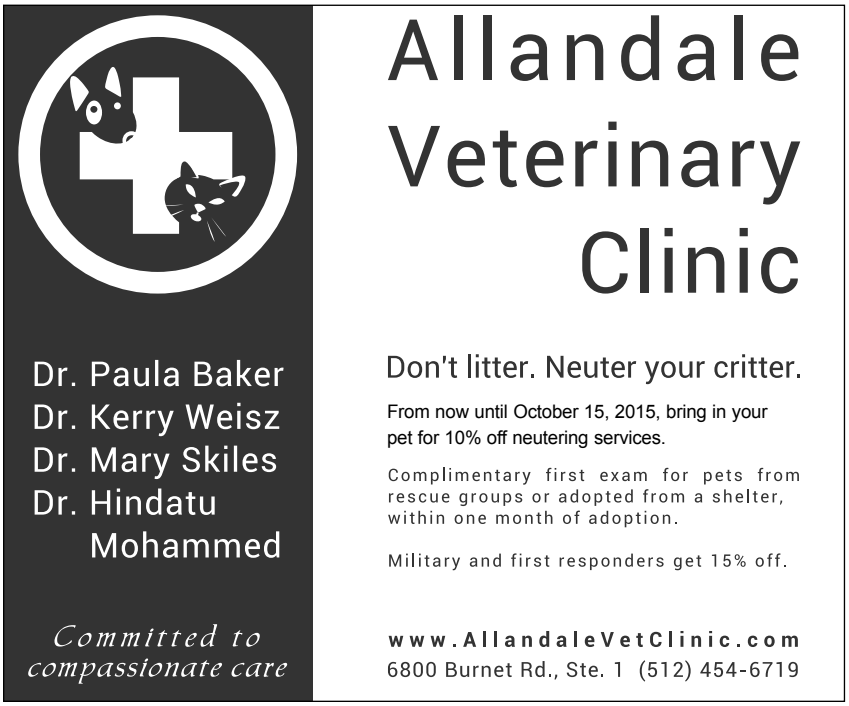

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It's Knight Time

Continued from page 17

10/15–10/25 Musical, Sondheim on Sondheim at McCallum Arts Center. An intimate multi-media look at the Father of the Modern Musical, featuring new arrangements of his most beloved work. 2015–2016 Theater Brochure, http://mactheatre.com/files/2015-16_Season_Newsletter.pdf ❖

Neighborhood Watch

Laura DiCarlo (lhdicarlo@yahoo.com)

Since the writing of the June Neighborhood Watch article the ANA Safety Committee has monitored crime statistics, hosted a table with face painting and Neighborhood Watch info at the 4th of July parade, been involved with graffiti abatement, become aware of credit card theft in the neighborhood, and requested a speed trailer on Great Northern Blvd.

Crime stats: In the month of June, there were no burglary of residences, which is pretty amazing! There were just two in July, one on Perry Lane and one at an apartment on Hancock Dr. I spoke with the resident on Perry Lane who said having 3-inch screws in her back door strike plate kept the burglar from successfully kicking in the door, but instead the perpetrator broke the window next to the door and was able to reach his or her hand in and unlock it. It is difficult to harden every aspect of our homes, but this resident is going to get an alarm system and have our APD District Representative, Officer Josh Metteauer, do a home safety audit.

We had one auto theft (on Burnet Rd.) in June and none in July. The nine burglary of vehicles in June and July were at NW Park and Pool (three of them), one at 2525 W. Anderson Lane, two at 5350 Burnet Rd. apartments, one in the parking lot at 5808 Burnet Rd., one on W. North Loop Blvd., and one at a townhome on Shoal Creek Blvd. between Foster and Anderson Lanes.

Since the June newsletter there were a number of other APD incident reports for family disturbance, leaving the scene of a crash, credit card abuse, criminal mischief, theft, shoplifting, fraud, DWI, criminal trespass, harassment, reckless driving, request to apprehend, and more. To access all of the data go to http://www.krimelabb.com/_nca1/view/v_neighborhood.php?neighborhood=allandale.

4th of July parade table: We added free face painting to the Neighborhood Watch info table at the end of the parade route this year, which proved to be a big hit. A huge thanks to neighborhood teens Eva Kornerup and Gandenae Larsen for their marvelous service. They did such a great job painting flags and other patriotic images on kids' cheeks, I've already asked them if they will do it again next year!

Graffiti: Since the June newsletter, safety committee volunteers have continued to paint over and clean graffiti off of surfaces at the retention pond, NW Park, and on utility boxes. "Guts" has been a recurring tag but there are others as well. Our deal with PARD maintenance to abate graffiti on a regular basis hasn't gone as well as we had hoped, so a couple of ANA safety committee members will be meeting next week with a district manager to hopefully make this happen.

Credit Card number theft: A block captain informed me of an incident on June 8th in which an employee of a business located in Allandale was using a credit card skimming app to collect customers' credit card numbers for his private use. The business asked us not to publicly name them because they fired the employee and felt it would negatively impact their sales even though there was no longer a risk to customers. Please be advised, however, to pay attention when using your credit card. The illegal activity was discovered by a patron who noticed the employee recording the number of another customer's card.

Listserv and Suspicious Activity: The biggest incident was the July 20th mugging of a woman on Redlands Street in Brentwood and the July 27th arrest of 8 teens who were reported to be involved in

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the attack. There was a collective sigh of relief from Nextdoor and the listserv after the arrest.

A hit and run occurred on June 8th. in which a driver jumped the curb on Great Northern Blvd. and hit a car parked in a driveway. The car in the driveway was severely damaged, and while there was at least one eye witness, a license number was not obtained. A plea was put on the listserve asking if anyone else saw the incident. If you have any information regarding this accident, please let me know.

The hit and run and listserv discussion about speeding led me ask Officer Metteauer for a speed trailer on Great Northern Blvd. Thanks to Officer Metteauer for responding to our need, and hopefully drivers will slow down on a road known for its speeding.

National Night Out will take place on Tuesday, October 6th from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Please see the separate article for details.

As always, please contact me with questions, concerns, or if you are interested in getting involved with the safety committee. You can become a block captain, help remove graffiti, patrol, help plan and run the Take 10 CPR training each February, and more!

Our APD District Representative: Officer Josh Metteauer #5357, Austin Police Department, Region 1 (Baker) District Representatives, joshua.metteauer@austintexas.gov, Office 512-974-8124, Fax 512-974-5325. ❖

Happy Birthday to The Bead Stash!

Laura Beck

At 7437 Burnet Road, at the corner of Richcreek, is a nondescript strip mall that is actually a power house of woman-owned businesses! From Tessa Chocolatier and Vanilla Orchid Catering, to the Sun Loan franchise and acupuncture store, there is also The Bead Stash, owned by Emily and Danielle, that celebrates its first anniversary in October, specifically with a celebration scheduled for October 17 and 18.

In advance of this milestone, I stopped by to learn more. These two woman have been working together since 2009 when they met at Nomadic Notions, a bead store on Anderson at Shoal Creek. When that long time (20 years!) owner decided to retire and close the shop, and Emily and Danielle were encouraged and inspired by colleagues and artists they'd worked with for years, they decided to take the leap and opened The Bead Stash in October 2014.

The store is as warm and friendly as the two owners. It has all the beads and equipment you would imagine of a bead store, with expertise in all bead work and jewelry making, including wire working, cold connections and metal stamping, all the way up until solder or flame, which they do not do.

The merchandise is very well priced, comparable to Joann's or Michaels, some items even cheaper! And even more reason to shop and support local, The Bead Stash

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Happy Birthday to The Bead Stash!

Continued from page 19

also features local artists selling jewelry on consignment. Customers also benefit from friendly, helpful folks with time to spend with you, available, focused.

The Bead Stash does jewelry repair, including vintage. They are proud of their affordable repair for costume jewelry and even things like strings of pearls, where one example was 1/3 the price quoted by jewelers for repairs.

The Bead Stash offers lots of beading classes with options online. They are also very interested in doing private events and parties, during store hours or special hours, whether a girl's birthday party or girl scout troop event, or a bridesmaid/bachelorette outing or a ladies night out (they are happy for you to BYOB!) The Bead Stash was awesome to one of our Gullett girl scout troops who visited to earn a Jewelry Making badge. And the store is happy to support neighbor or school fundraising, just reach out with ideas or requests.

The store classroom space and back table is open to anyone anytime and the family-like environment is so welcoming to come in, shop, but also do your beading project right there! They are happy to help with finishing and the sometimes frustrating (she says, knowing it personally) clasps and closures.

These co-owners are first time entrepreneurs with a business that is very healthy and happy at one year old, thanks to lots of traffic in the new location, loyal and supportive customers, artists and former (and current) colleagues.

Emily was a stay-at-home Mom, now an empty nester, who was ready for the next thing and to channel her love for beading, as well as other hands-on activities like gardening and scrapbooking, into a business. Danielle started working at Nomadic Notions in 1998 while working on her undergrad at St. Ed's. She left the state for graduate work, but Austin drew her back and she returned too to her love of beading where she met Emily in 2009. Both women say their colleagues at the old business inspired and encouraged them, calling out Mick McNulty and Ashlea Keith. These folks, and a host of other friends came together and helped set up and open up The Bead Stash, volunteering long hours to get this business opened.

The name came from a former colleague, and is a nod to the home "stashes" of beads most people involved in the craft have. Whether you have a bead stash of your own, or are intrigued to start one, stop in and see The Bead Stash at 7437 Burnet Road, at Richcreek. Especially stop by October 17 and 18 for the One Year celebration!

There is so much more information online, including events and classes. Please check out www.beadstashatx.com or www.facebook.com/BeadStashATX or call 512-454-0001.

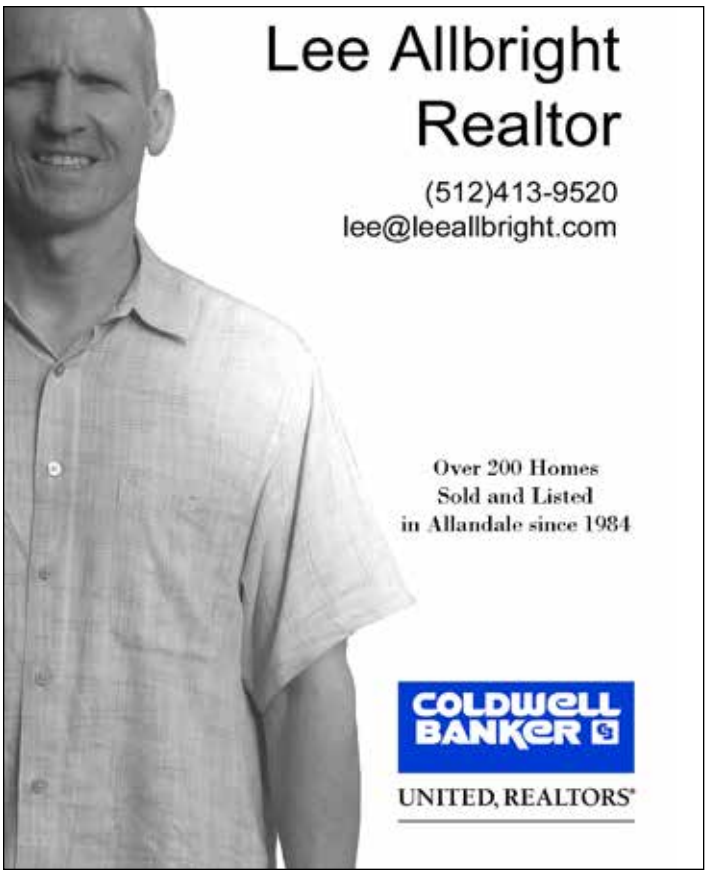
Happy first anniversary The Bead Stash! Here's to many many more! ❖

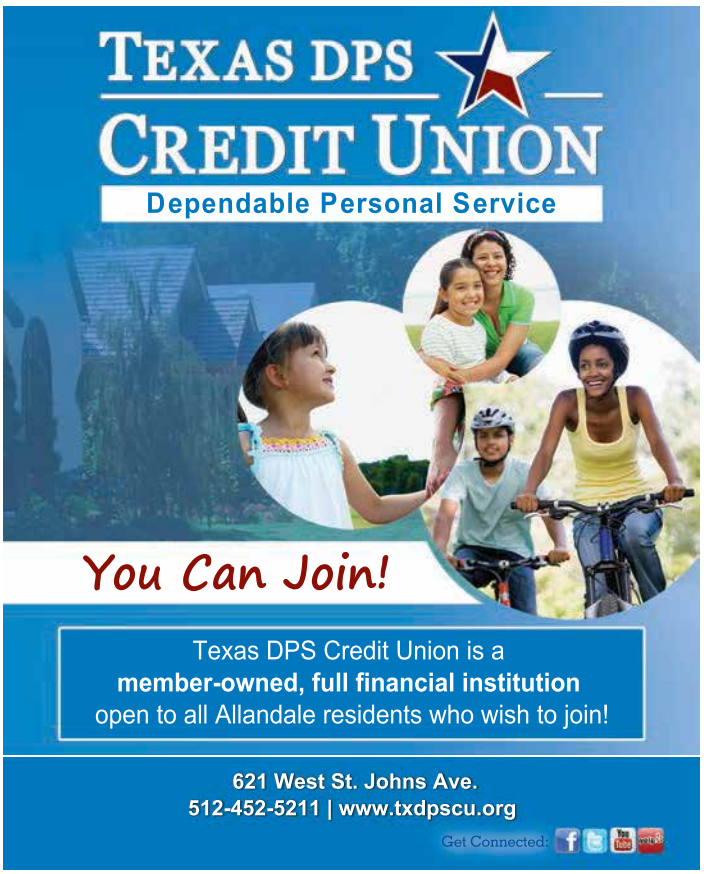
Special Guest Column—Cat Talk: Zipties Save Lives!

Bindu Viswanathan (bindu11@gmail.com)

Our 11-year-old cat was lost two months ago in the Allandale/Crestview area during a routine visit to the vet. What happened to us could have been easily prevented, so I hope our story will help avoid this heartbreak for other cat parents out there.

Our plastic cat carrier broke open in the





vet's parking lot, right next to heavy Burnet Road traffic, and our fearful, mild mannered kitty fell out into the chaos, panicked, and ran away. For 11 years, we have transported our cats safely, to the vet, and also across states and in and out of 5 homes. Yet, in a flash, this one time, our lives changed forever. We have been searching for 2 months using every method imaginable, including pet detectives, infrared cameras, endless flyers, and conversations.

We have fostered kittens from the shelter, rescued numerous stray dogs and cats, cat-sat, and volunteered with various animal rescue organizations. So we feel we are among the more informed people on animal behavior and care. Yet, this happened to us. We should have checked those clasps more carefully and we started reading online to see if there were others who didn't practice completely safe cat transportation.

We hardly ever saw any mention of using zip ties or bungee cords to secure a carrier. Turns out, there are little holes along the carrier just for this purpose. Who knew! One obscure mention says "we want to warn people about plastic cat carriers because we have heard one too many stories where the carrier breaks open & the cat gets loose. Please reinforce your carrier using zip ties or cord. Also, be sure to carry the case from the bottom. Don't use only the handle because carrying cases are made very flimsy."

There is a need for awareness among cat-parents about reinforcing their pet carriers. We hope our story will serve this purpose.

We adopted our cat from the streets as a kitten, and he has never had to fend for himself. He is now lost at an age when he most needs our care. He is sweet and loving, but is very, very shy. He will likely be mistaken for a feral cat. He is micro-chipped, but we doubt anyone will be able to catch him to scan him for his ID! His name is Shadow, though he will likely not respond to it. If he is seen, please contact us. He deserves our care in his golden years. ❖

Town Hall with Leslie Pool

Our District 7 Austin City Council representative, Leslie Pool, will be holding another Town Hall meeting and invites neighbors to attend:

District 7 Town Hall Meeting
Saturday, September 19, 1:30–3:00 p.m.
Northwest Recreation Center, 2913 Northland Drive, in the Gymnasium ❖

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BSA Cub Scout Pack 55 & Boy Scout Troop 410 Hosting Recruitment Night at Northwest Park

Tim Farrell, Assistant Cubmaster

BSA Cub Scout Pack 55 and Troop 410 serves the Allandale community and meet at Highland Park Baptist Church on Balcones. We are having our join scouting recruitment night at Northwest Park on September 10th at 6:30. We will serve hotdogs and drinks and have activities for the boys. The event is an opportunity to learn more about our scouting programs and give boys a chance to sign up for the fall.

Boy Scouts is a century-old youth leadership organization focused on instilling core values of citizenship, service to others and the community, love of the outdoors and respect for the environment. Our Cub Scout pack is for boys between the ages of 7 and 11 years, starting in the 1st grade through 5th grade. We also have a large home school den that meets regularly at the church. Cub Scouting is designed for the parents to participate in the meetings with the boys and share in the fun activities. We are an active pack that goes camping three times a year, we hold an annual pinewood derby race, hikes, service projects, and overnighters. Our leadership team specializes in getting the boys prepared and ready to transition to Boy Scouts. Please contact Cubmaster Darrell Griffith (darrellguygriffith@gmail.com) for more information or visit our website (www.pack55atx.com). Boy Scout Troop 410 is for boys ages 11–18. Boys may join the scouting program at any age. Previous experience as a cub scout is not required. The Boy Scout program is boy-lead and focuses on personal responsibility and developing important leadership skills. The troop camps every month from September to May, rain or shine! Troop 410 specializes in primitive camping and teaching bush craft and survival skills. Other recent troop adventures include an aviation campout, canoeing trips, and salt water fishing on the Texas Gulf Coast. During the summer, the boys attend summer camps and older scouts beginning at age 14 may attend the Boy Scout high adventure bases in New Mexico, Minnesota, and Florida.

The Troop has a high success rate in boys achieving the Eagle Scout award, scouting's highest rank. This summer the boys went to summer camp in Colorado. Two contingents went backpacking at Philmont in the mountains of New Mexico and another contingent went to Switzerland with Venture Crew 410 (also based at Highland Park Baptist Church). The Venture Crew focuses on high adventure backpacking, rock climbing and other outdoor activities. Venture Scouts are for boys and girls between the ages of 14 and 21. For more information about Troop 410, please contact Tom Hunter (tshunter59@gmail.com) or visit www.t410.org. For information for about Venture Crew 410, contact Karen Miller (bumpercropper@hotmail.com).

We look forward to seeing you and your boys on September 10th . If you are unable to make that meeting, you and your son are welcome to visit Pack 55 or Troop 410 at any of regular meetings starting this fall! ❖

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Sammy's House Family Event Saturday August 22

We wrote about Sammy's House late last year and its service to special needs children, as well as typical children. More information is always available at www.sammyshouse.org.

Sammy's House is holding its annual free family event, **Movie in the Playground** on Saturday, August 22. They will have a giant movie screen and show Alvin and the Chipmunks. Showtime is 8:15 p.m., but gates will open at 7:30 so families can lay their blankets and buy goodies if they'd like. Admission is free, and there will be popcorn, drinks, and baked goods for sale, as well as a candy station. They are also having a raffle to win a family 4-pack of tickets to the Austin Lego KidsFest, with the winner announced after the movie. Sammy's House does this each year just for the Allandale neighborhood, and hopes to see many neighbors there! More information is on their Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/events/1639759239572460/ ❖

Save the Date—National Night Out, Tuesday, October 6

Continued from front page

the evening outside with their neighbors, police officers, firefighters, and EMS paramedics.

Most communities nationwide hold their NNO in August, but due to the heat in Austin, APD moves ours to the first Tuesday in October every year. Events such as cookouts, block parties and neighborhood walks will occur throughout the city on Tuesday, October 6th from 7:00–9:00 p.m.

According to the City of Austin website, NNO is designed to:

- Heighten crime and drug prevention awareness.
- Generate support and participation in crime prevention efforts.
- Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police community relations.
- Send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

This year's NNO Kick-Off event will take place lakeside at the Mueller Airport Development on Saturday, October 4, 2014 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information, visit www.nnoaustin.org.

Allandale block captains organize parties in our neighborhood, and this year we will have all of our gatherings at people's homes rather than at NW Rec Center because we have found people like to gather with their closest neighbors for this event.

If you were not invited to a party last year it may be because you do not have a block captain. Please contact Laura DiCarlo, Allandale Neighborhood Watch Coordinator and Safety Chair, before September 12th to organize a party. ❖

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New or Renewal Membership
Celebrate Allandale: Love It. Protect It.

All residents within Allandale's boundaries are welcome to join the Allandale Neighborhood Association. Annual dues are $15 per household or $7 (over age 55 household). Membership runs January-December. Dues may be paid in advance for multiple years.

Name _____
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E-mail _____

Membership rates: ❑ $15 dues per household
❑ $7 dues per age 55+ household
(OPTIONAL: ❑ I'm including an additional contribution of $_____ to ANA's legal fund)

Please make checks payable to:
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Or join online via PayPal at: *www.allandaleneighbor.com*

I am willing to serve on the following committees:

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❑ Other_____

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